

that in that country, and in his, public affairs are in a great measure controlled by oral discussion. Hence the natural wish among us to excel in this qualification; and although but few, comparatively, have attained to the higher grades of eloquence, no nation probably ever presented so great an array of ready public speakers. But by far the greater part seem content with this one acquirement, and push their intellectual exercises no further. We abound much more in speakers than writers—satisfied with the temporary success and renown obtained with the freest indulgence of the Oratorical license, the larger number have little claim to the taste, discipline and accuracy of thought required for correct and elegant composition. Both speaking and writing, however, are but arts, designed to portray the productions of the mind. Unless it has been inspired with a true taste, enlarged and exercised by study, and stored with generous knowledge, no rhetoric can supply its deficiencies, nor give excellence to its effusions. And although the public and professional affairs, to which allusion has been made, may be conducted without liberal learning, yet he who aspires to high eminence or permanent fame in these pursuits, will be greatly advanced by its aid. BURKE had many rivals among his contemporaries, who successfully contested with him the palm of eloquence on the floor of Parliament, but from the inexhaustible resources of his philosophic and cultivated mind, and his brilliant attractions as a writer, he has left them far behind in the race for posthumous distinction, and has embalmed even the ephemeral party controversies of his day in a diction which will preserve them to future ages. Other examples of the advantages derived to statesmen and men of affairs from liberal learning, will readily occur to the reader of the history of all enlightened nations. And he who neglects it in our country, under the impression that it will be needless to him in these pursuits on which he is so anxious to enter, usually discovers his mistake at too late a period of life for its correction.

By spending the collegiate term in the generous culture of all the faculties, and the acquirement of a liberal store of knowledge, the horizon of the emulous Student becomes enlarged, the field for selection of a path in life is extended; perchance that once contemplated is not found best suited to his capacities and tastes, and he enters upon the journey in whatever direction, *animis opibus que paratus*, for noble exertion and continued improvement. He regards his collegiate exercises as but a preparation for